

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

In reply to the public comments on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules, my opinion is this: to promote competition, diversity and local content, as well even democracy itself, the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules.

The studies commissioned by the FCC are flawed and incomplete. By allowing our media outlets to merge print and broadcast facilities a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information available to citizens to act in the public interest will result. A much wider array of opinions and viewpoints can be publicized with these media ownership rules. Take a look at what happened to radio when corporations were allowed to buy nearly endless amounts of broadcasting stations. There are now just a handful of songs, news items, and promotions broadcasted on these stations. Independent artists don't have a chance, and the public is exposed to much less music. This ultimately undermines the right to choose, because there is essentially so much less to choose from.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. It will allow for educated opinions among the public, awareness of political proceedings from all viewpoints instead of just one or two, and protect the dignity of the public.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

Thank you,
Jillian Harp